

ALBANY TOWNSHIP ENVIRONMENTAL ADVISORY COUNCIL

MEETING MINUTES

Kempton Fire Company Social Hall

2461 Route 143, Kempton, Pennsylvania

Monday September 12, 7:30 pm

Attending: Jeff Schucker, Chair; Noah Rauch, Laurie Goodrich, Randy Hensinger, Bracken Brown, Anita Zawada, Tom Kerr. **Absent:** Stephanie Stoudt.

Secretary's Report: Minutes from August were reviewed and accepted unanimously.

Public Forum

Public Programs

On September 13th we host the Family Forest Carbon program with Sarah Hall-Bagdonis presenting. The audiovisual set up will be done by Noah and Bracken. Laurie is bringing Sarah as she is staying over at Hawk Mountain. Tom will bring cookies and Jeff will do the introduction, Laurie to resend the bio around. Try to get there by 615-630. Bracken will bring display and brochures. Randy got the sign up on 143 and flyers were posted.

The next program will be a joint HM and EAC program on November 15th and will be at Hawk Mountain Visitor Center. They will provide refreshments and have invited the Berks Nature staff, including Larry Lloyd, to present on conservation easements and the new funding for landowners from Kittatinny Landscape initiative. Laurie will confirm but beginning time will be 6:30 pm. HM will send out an invite to Albany residents but EAC should post as well.

It was decided to host Todd Bauman to discuss forest health work he and HM are doing in March. We need to confirm the date with him

Current Activities

Albany Film virtual tour. Noah distributed and discussed a story board he created for the film about the township. He has different sections on Infrastructure, farming, scenic views. Each section is 1 -2 min. and he envisions a total of three films that can be shared on social media. With fall busyness, Noah and Todd will reengage on discussing this and organizing footage in next month. They do have some film from Berks Nature and for now Noah is thinking it would have subtitles but not speaking. Jeff asked about interviews we had, like with farming community. Bracken suggested a longer film with these could develop later on but these could be teasers, about the township. All reviewed storyboard and affirmed the direction Noah was taking.

Insurance coverage: Jeff spoke to Supervisors about volunteer groups. He said work groups in township must be approved by Supervisors. Question arose whether volunteer groups such as road clean up or work in park would be covered by township insurance and Jeff said he needed to confirm that still.

Weed Ordinance. Randy asked how did this topic come up, and Jeff relayed it developed out of our discussion of mowing and native plants. Tom said any tweaking we suggest might not result in legislative change at this point but we could make recommendation for changes for future. Laurie noted that the referral to noxious weed was an issue and she and Noah said they will search for a better model ordinance on line. This relates to plant list.

Plant List. Noah sought guidance on format wanted for list. It was discussed that Todd had created a cover page describing native plants and importance. We need to get that document and then Laurie suggested we could just have pdfs of trees, shrubs, flowers as well as links to DCNR list of noxious plants, plant list on the Audubon web page and PA native plant group that way we are not updating, but following their recommendations. Noah said he can get cover page from todd for review at next meeting.

Albany Community Park

Todd and Steve H. worked on thistle control recently.

New Business

Jeff expressed concern with open burning in three places during the drought conditions. He contacted the Kempton Fire Company and they said there is no way to stop it. Jeff got a copy of the burn ordinance from the township and wondered if it was a violation. He passed out the document where it states burns only restricted in certain areas. Could we make a suggested change to the ordinance wherein all burns under drought conditions are restricted? Laurie suggested drought condition designation can come from County, DCNR? or Delaware River Basin Commission. We should check with Supervisors if willing to amend ordinance and what would be the proper authority to follow. Jeff and others noted complaints about burning in past have been noted.

EAC adjourned at 8:15 p.m.

Submitted by,

Laurie Goodrich

EAC Secretary